



## National Interagency Fire Center

3838 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

February 17, 2004

TO: Chairs, Geographic Area Coordinating Groups

FROM: Don Artley, Chair, National Multi Agency Coordinating Group

RE: Advanced Incident Management and Area Command Courses

Rich Wands, National Advanced Resource and Technology Center (NARTC) Director, briefed us last week on a potentially serious problem. As you know, the Advanced Incident Management and Area Command Courses (S-520/620) are currently offered every other year in Tucson, AZ. It is the final step in the formal training and qualifications system for incident managers and is the required course for Command and General Staff participation on our National Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMTs).

Historically, 12 IMTs and 3 Area Command Teams attend the training, for a total of 108 positions. Recruitment for the 2005 course began last fall in order to designate trainees to participate in a formal mentoring program over the 2004 fire season prior to attending the course. At this time, only a little over half of the necessary nominations to host a full course in 2005 have been received. The nomination period had been extended until February 15<sup>th</sup>, however, it is feared that the course will have to be reduced significantly due to insufficient trainees. This would be inefficient at the least and insufficient for meeting our supply and demand needs for IMT members. Current predictions are that over the next five years, the Interagency Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs and Area Command Teams will turn over 92% of their Command and General Staff (473 of 512 positions) due to retirements, tenure, or inability or unwillingness to participate.

There are shortages in all positions but most notably with Incident Commanders, Finance Section Chiefs, Planning Section Chiefs and Logistic Section Chiefs. The course can be conducted with only eight teams, but this will not help resolve the problem of recruiting Incident Management Teams in the future. Recent requests for additional nominations from the geographic areas have so far had very limited success. The attached tables display the breakdown of current nominees by agency and by geographic area.

NARTC is willing to extend the deadline for nominations until March 15. We are asking your help in increasing participation in these critical courses. Please do whatever you can to help. Our future is at stake.

CC: Rich Wands  
NMAC Members  
Attachment

## **Attachment 1**

The tables below show the breakdown of nominees by agency and geographic area.

### **S-520 Candidate Breakdown by Agency:**

<b>Positions</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>BLM</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>BIA</b>	<b>FWS</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
IC	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
IO	8	0	0	0	0	3	1	12
SO	4	2	0	0	1	3	1	11
FSC	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
LSC	6	1	0	0	0	1	2	10
PSC	2	0	0	1	1	1	3	8
OSC(2) 16	1	1	0	1	5	0	24	
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>

### **S-520 Candidate Breakdown by Geographic Area:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>NW</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>RM</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>AK</b>
IC	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
IO	3	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	1
SO	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	0
FSC	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
LSC	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
PSC	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
OSC(2) 7	5	0	1	2	4	0	3	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>

Type 1 IMTs

Supported	5	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	1
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### **S-620 Candidate Breakdown**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Agency Geo Area</b>	<b>Number</b>
ACDR	NPS NR	1
AACP	FS NR	1
AACL	2FS/1BLM 2SE/1AK	3
ACAC	2FS GB/SE	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5FS/1NPS/1BLM</b>	<b>7</b>